

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel (10), said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:

10 tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),
electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (18),

a main amalgam disposed for controlling the mercury pressure in the discharge space except for a starting period,

15 and at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in one of said tubular end portions of the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of the electrodes (20; 20'),

characterized in that

20 the carrier (25; 25') is supported on a body formed of electrically insulating material extending in said one of said tubular end portions and is electrically insulated with respect to the electrode (20; 20').

at least a major part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis (12; 12'), and

25 the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two mutually orthogonal directions, substantially planar and transverse to said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis,

whereby during the starting period the lamp has a relatively short run-up time.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein said body is a stem (21; 21') in the tubular end portion (11; 11'), said stem carries the electrode (20; 20'), and the carrier (25; 25') is provided on a supporting body arranged in the stem

(21; 21').

Claims 3-4 (canceled)

- 5 Claim 5 (original): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein the supporting body is formed by a wire (23, 23').

Claim 6 (canceled)

- 10 Claim 7 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier (25; 25') is arranged at a side of the electrode (20; 20') facing away from the discharge space (18).

Claim 8 (canceled)

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Claim 9 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier (25; 25') comprises a further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane parallel to the longitudinal axis (12; 12').

- 20 Claim 10 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the range from $0.5 < d < 8$ mm.

- Claim 11 (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp ~~as claimed in claim~~
25 ~~10, wherein~~ comprising a discharge vessel (10), said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge
space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge
vessel (10) comprising:
tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),
electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a
30 discharge in the discharge space (18).

a main amalgam disposed for controlling the mercury pressure in the discharge space except for a starting period.

and at least an auxiliary amalgam (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in one of said tubular end portions of the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of the electrodes (20; 20').

characterized in that

the carrier (25; 25') is supported on a body formed of electrically insulating material extending in said one of said tubular end portions and is electrically insulated with respect to the electrode (20; 20').

at least a major part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis (12; 12').

the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two mutually orthogonal directions, substantially planar and transverse to said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis, and

a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the range from $1 < d < 3$ mm,

whereby during the starting period the lamp has a relatively short run-up time.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim ~~13~~, 1, wherein the ~~carrier (25; 25')~~ is directly press-fitted onto said body is a stem (21, 21') which carries the electrode (20, 20') in the tubular end portion (11, 11'), and the carrier (25; 25') is directly press-fitted onto said stem.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a discharge vessel (10), said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:

tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),
electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a
discharge in the discharge space (18),

and, in addition to said filling of mercury and inert gas, at least an auxiliary amalgam
5 (27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of
the electrodes (20; 20'),

characterized in that

at least a part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the
longitudinal axis (12; 12'),

10 the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two orthogonal directions transverse to
said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in
a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis, and

the carrier is provided on an external surface of a supporting body formed by an exhaust
tube (26) which extends at least partially into the discharge space (18).

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Claim 16 (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a
discharge vessel (10), ~~said discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (18) containing a~~
~~filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and said discharge vessel (10) comprising:~~

20 ~~———— tubular end portions (11; 11'), which each have a longitudinal axis (12; 12'),~~
~~———— electrodes (20; 20') arranged in the discharge space (18) for generating and maintaining a~~
~~discharge in the discharge space (18);~~

~~———— and, in addition to said filling of mercury and inert gas, at least an auxiliary amalgam~~
~~(27) provided on a carrier (25; 25') in the discharge vessel (10) in the proximity of at least one of~~
~~the electrodes (20; 20');~~

25 ~~———— characterized in that~~

~~———— at least a part (25A) of the carrier (25; 25') is arranged in a plane transverse to the~~
~~longitudinal axis (12; 12');~~

~~———— the auxiliary amalgam extends substantially in two orthogonal directions transverse to~~
~~said longitudinal axis, and is disposed substantially in line with said at least one of the electrodes in~~
30 ~~a direction parallel with said longitudinal axis,~~

~~the carrier is provided on a supporting body formed by an~~ as claimed in claim 15,
wherein said exhaust tube (26) ~~which extends at least partially into the discharge space (18) and has~~
an end portion which is situated in the discharge space, and is electrically insulated with respect to
the electrode (20; 20'), and

5 the carrier (25; 25') is clamped onto the end portion of the exhaust tube (26).

Claim 17 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in
claim 16, wherein the carrier (25; 25') comprises a further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane
parallel to the longitudinal axis (12; 12').

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Claim 18 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in
claim 16, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the
range from $1 < d < 3$ mm.

15 Claim 19 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in
claim 16, wherein the carrier (25; 25') comprises a further part (25B) which is arranged in a plane
parallel to the longitudinal axis (12; 12'), said further part clamping the carrier onto said end
portion.

20 Claim 20 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in
claim 19, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the
range from $0.5 < d < 8$ mm.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in
25 claim 19, wherein a distance d between the carrier (25; 25') and the electrode (20; 20') lies in the
range from $1 < d < 3$ mm.